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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ADDIS FROM ASMARA 177 DATED MARCH 27 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

S E C R E T ASMARA 177

SUBJ: PINCUS AND PAUL VISIT ASMARA

SUMMARY:

1. PINCUS AND PAUL RECEIVED FORMAL BRIEFINGS FROM CONGEN, CO KANGNEW STATION, CO NAVCOMMSTA, CO STRATCOM, CO DET 3, CO, OPERATIONS OFFICERS [REDACTED] AND USAF MAAG ADVISOR. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH DCM, CONGEN, AND CO KAGNEW STATION.

2. THRUST OF PINCUS AND PAUL'S QUESTIONS WAS ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER US INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, SPECIFICALLY ERITREAN INSURGENCY, AND TO LEARN ATTITUDES OF LOCAL POPULATION TO US PRESENCE HERE. ON MILITARY SIDE NON-TECHNICAL QUESTIONS CONCERNED ON WHETHER KAGNEW FUNCTIONS COULD BE EFFECTIVELY PERFORMED ELSEWHERE, MANPOWER AND COST FIGURES, AND DEGREE OF IEG AWARENESS OF KAGNEW MISSION. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON KAGNEW OPERATIONS BEING REPORTED MILITARY CHANNELS.

Army, USAF and DOS reviews completed

Declassification/Release Instructions on

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QUESTIONS:

1. CONGEN WAS ASKED ABOUT LOCAL ATTITUDES TOWARD KAGNEW, ESPECIALLY WHAT GENERAL PUBLIC BELIEVES IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ELF. WERE TOLD THAT WHILE ELF EXTERNAL PROPAGANDA ATTACKS US QTE IMERIALIST UNQTE BASE IN ETHIOPIA, WE AWARE NO RPT NO ACCUSATIONS IN COUNTRY OF DIRECT US SUPPORT IEG EFFORTS AGAINST ELF. CONGEN ALSO SAID THAT ERITREANS REGARDED AMERICANS AS FRIENDS AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN 1967.

2. ASKED WHETHER THERE SHOUL BE GREATER AUTONOMY FOR ERITREA, CONGEN REPLIED THAT GOVGEN HERE NOW FAVORED NAMING OF ERITREAN AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE WITH SEPARATE, LARGELY HONORIFIC POSITION AS EMPERIOR'S REPRESENTATIVE BEING HELD BY MAN FROM ADDIS. CONGEN NOTE WE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER HIM WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO SUCH A PLAN.

3. ASKED ABOUT ISRQAEI MILITARY PRESENCE. WERE ANSWERED THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 12 ISRAELI ADVISORS TO ERITREAN COMMANDO POLICE. WERE ALSO TOLD THAT ISRAELIS MAINTAINED VERY LOW PROFILE AND THAT WE HAD VERY LITTLE CONTACT WITH THEM AND NOT FULLY AWARE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

4. ASKED ABOUT PLAN DELTA PERSONNEL IN ERITREA. CONGEN RECALLED THAT AT TIME HS ARRIVAL HERE THERE WAS ONE PLAN DELTA OFFICER IN ASMARA WHO WAS PHASED OUT SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

5. ASKED KAGNEW CO AND OTHER TENANT UNIT COMMANDERS ABOUT EMPEOR'S VISITS KAGNEW--WHAT HE HAD SEEN AND WHAT IEG KNEW OR HAD ASKED TO KNOW ABOUT KAGNEW OPERATIONS. WERE TOLD THAT HIM HAS VISITED ALL KAGNEW SITES EXCEPT TRACT [REDACTED] FUTURE VISIT [REDACTED] BY HIM WAS POSSIBILITY BUT WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED BY WASHINGTON. NO ONE COULD RECALL ANY IEG REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION KAGNEW STATION MISSIONS. WE HAVE NOT VOLUNTEERED ANY SUCH INFORMATION. DCM REPLIED NO RPT NO WHEN ASKED IF WE THOUGHT THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD GET UPSET IF SOVIETS PROTESTED US PRESENCE HERE.

6. ASKED IF ETHIOPIANS HAD EVERY ASKED OPERATION KAGNEW STATION AS JOINT INSTALLATION AND WERE TOLD NO RPT NO.

7. INQUIRED ABOUT MANPOWER STATISTICS, RE-ENLISTMET RATES, AND

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OPERATING EXPENSES ASA, STRATCOM, AND NAVCOMMSTA AND WERE GIVEN FIGURES. WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN MANPOWER STRENGTH TRENDS.

8. WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER KAGNEW FUNCTIONS COULD BE EASILY RE-LOCATED ELSEWHERE, PARTICULARLY WHETHER EQUATORIAL LOCATION SUCH AS ASMARA ESSENTIAL FOR STRATCOM SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. WERE TOLD THAT LOCATION HERE DEFINITELY RELEVANT EFFECTIVENESS OF SYSTEM.

9. ASKED AND WERE TOLD NUMBER OF SHIPS NORMALLY SERVED BY NAVCOMMSTA AND AREA OF OPERATIONS.

10. ASKED USAF MAAG ADVISOR ABOUT HIS JOB, TYPES AND NUMBERS OF IEAF AIRCRAFT HERE, AND AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS AGAINST ELF. HE GAVE THEM AIRCRAFT FIGURES AND TOLD THEM HIS JOB WAS TO ADVISE ON LOGISTICS, ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS, AND TO PROVIDE SOME FLIGHT INSTRUCTION. EMPHASIZED HE WAS NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED COMBAT SORTIES OR INTELLIGENCE GATHERING. ALSO SAID HE NOT RPT NOT REGULARLY INFORMED OF COMBAT OPERATIONS AGAINST ELF NOR DID HE OVERSEE END USE OF AMMUNITION AND ORDNANCE.

11. HE WAS ALSO ASKED IF US HAD REQUESTED RETURN OF ANY T-28S FOR USE QTE ELSEWHERE UNQTE AND WAS TOLD NO RPT NO.

12. ASKED ASA OPERATIONS OFFICER NUMBER OF CRITICS LAST YEAR. WERE TOLD THAT THERE WERE THREE--TWO OF WHICH PROVED FALSE. JACKSON UNQUOTE
HALL

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